

ITEM:

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SUBJECT:

Rancho Murieta Community Services District and Rancho Murieta Country Club, Sacramento County

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of a Cease and Desist Order

BACKGROUND:

Rancho Murieta Community Services District owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility in Rancho Murieta, Sacramento County. Tertiary treated, disinfected wastewater is reclaimed to irrigate two golf courses operated by the Rancho Murieta Country Club. Both entities are named as Discharger in the WDRs.

The secondary treatment system capacity is 1.55 million gallons per day (mgd) average daily dry weather flow and the tertiary treatment system capacity is 3.0 mgd. Current influent flows are approximately 0.47 mgd average daily dry weather flow. The WDRs contain an influent flow limit of 1.5 mgd based solely on treatment capacity. However, a recent water balance shows that the storage and disposal capacity are limited to approximately 0.45 mgd. Golf course reclamation is the sole means of disposing of the wastewater.

Previous compliance issues led to adoption of a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) in 2001 because of failure to comply with the Title 22 water recycling regulations and unpermitted discharges of reclaimed effluent from the golf course lakes to surface waters. With the exception of obtaining an NPDES permit to regulate overflows from the golf course storage lakes, the Dischargers have satisfactorily completed the tasks set forth in the previous CDO.

The proposed CDO rescinds the previous CDO and addresses the following current compliance issues:

- a. Overflow of reclaimed water from the golf course storage lakes to surface water in violation of the Federal Clean Water Act;
- b. Inadequate wastewater storage and disposal capacity at the wastewater treatment facility;
- c. Complaints regarding odors from the golf course storage lakes and irrigation system; and
- d. Potential groundwater degradation at the wastewater treatment facility.

To address these issues, the proposed Cease and Desist order requires:

- a. Effective January 2008, overflows of reclaimed water from the golf course ponds shall either cease or shall be regulated under an NPDES permit;
- b. Effective immediately, the influent flow limit shall be 0.52 mgd, and the Dischargers shall prepare and implement an interim wastewater containment plan describing the steps to be taken to maintain compliance with the WDRs. Once RMCS D can demonstrate that excess stored wastewater has been reclaimed, the Executive Officer may authorize an influent flow limit of up to 0.67 mgd.
- c. By July 2007, the Dischargers are required to submit a Wastewater Facilities and Financing Plan that proposes specific dates for submittal of a Report of Waste Discharge before influent flows are projected to reach 0.60 mgd average daily dry weather flow and for completion of

necessary expansion improvements.

- d. During the 2006 irrigation season, the Dischargers are required to implement their proposed odor mitigation plan; and
- e. By 2007, the Dischargers are required to complete additional groundwater monitoring and shall re-evaluation whether groundwater degradation exists at the wastewater treatment facility.

ISSUES:

The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) contends that the winter overflows of reclaimed water from the golf course lakes are in violation of the Federal Clean Water Act and cannot be permitted under the NPDES municipal storm water permit program. Staff concurs with CSPA's assessment, but believes that it may be possible for the Dischargers to manage the golf course lakes such that overflows contain only trace amounts of reclaimed water. In that case, overflows from the lakes may be eligible for coverage under a municipal storm water permit. Therefore, the proposed CDO prohibits the discharge of reclaimed water from the golf course lakes effective January 2008, unless permitted under an NPDES permit.

The Dischargers believe that a CDO is not necessary to address the capacity, odor, and groundwater issues because they have, and will continue to, cooperate with staff in resolving the issues. However, staff believes that the capacity problem is serious enough to warrant the CDO. Additionally, staff has received numerous complaints from Rancho Murieta residents regarding odors and perceived groundwater degradation. Although the groundwater and odor issues alone may not warrant a CDO, it is appropriate for the CDO to address all current compliance issues.

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the Cease and Desist Order.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

26/27 January 2006 Board Meeting
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